



SPEECH ON THE BUDGET

BY THE

HON. J. G. ROBERTSON,

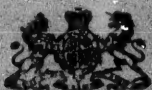
TREASURER OF THE PROVINCE OF QUEBEC,

DELIVERED IN THE

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, QUEBEC,

24TH NOVEMBER, 1871.

(Reported for Morning Chronicle.)



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PRINTED BY J. J. FOOTE.

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BUDGET SPEECH

OF THE

HON. TREASURER OF QUEBEC.

NOVEMBER 24TH, 1871.

AFTER RECESS.

The House met at half-past seven.

The Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON then moved the House into Committee of Supply. In doing so, he said :—

MR. SPEAKER.—In making the motion that you should leave the Chair, and the House go into Committee, to consider the Supply to be granted Her Majesty, for the fiscal year beginning the 1st of July next, it is due to the House and country, that some explanations be given as to our receipts and expenditures for the past fiscal year, ending the 30th June last.

Under our system of Constitutional Government, it belongs to this branch of the Legislature to grant, or withhold, the supplies necessary for carrying on the public business of the country in the various departments ; and as this House is responsible to the people for its acts, Hon. Members have a right to understand fully our financial position and to pronounce thereon ; to examine into the manner the former appropriations have been disposed of, as also to examine into the probable income derivable from the various sources of revenue at the command of the government.

I shall, Mr. Speaker, endeavor to give the House the fullest information, in my power, on these points, trusting

members will, as heretofore, give me their patient attention and extend to me that courtesy and consideration which have always been given to every member of this House, while addressing his colleagues. I am quite aware of the difficulty of making a financial statement interesting. There is no room for fancy or imagination to play. Nothing but plain, dry matters of fact to be dealt with, and did I rely on my ability to make my remarks interesting to Hon. Members—I am aware I should only miserably fail. At the same time, as it devolves on me, to give such information and explanations as the House requires, I shall do so in the best way I can, trusting that in connection with the printed documents in the hands of Hon. Members, such information may be given as will enable them to arrive at a true knowledge of the state of our affairs.

I would, at the outset, wish to guard Hon. Members, from supposing that the Public Accounts of the Province, submitted from year to year, are to be taken as shewing the real standing of our Provincial affairs—that is, that the sources of revenue from which our receipts are credited from year to year, and the items of expenditure shown in our published statements, are the only available sources of revenue which the Province can command, or the only objects for which the Province may be called upon hereafter to disburse money. The Public Accounts therefore are merely statements of moneys received and moneys paid out by the Government, and do not show either our resources or liabilities. Happily for us, our sources of revenue are more ample than those from which we have hitherto received our cash receipts, and the principal object for which we will have to pay out money, over and above those highly important objects, which have already been aided and assisted from the public purse—will be, for payment of interest upon our share of the surplus debt of the late Province of Canada, over the sixty-two and a half millions of dollars, assumed by the Dominion Government. As the Province advances in population and wealth; as our natural resources are developed; and as our means of communication are perfected, our sources of revenue will increase, thereby, our ability to aid still further in developing and assisting enterprises likely to benefit the Province.

In the meantime, may I be allowed to allude shortly to our position, as respects the pending Arbitration between Ontario and Quebec.

I am well aware that this question was fully and ably discussed at last session of the House, and also the other day during this session; but the importance of the subject is such, that, I think, it is desirable that the House and the Country, should be put in possession of all facts tending to make it well and clearly understood.

I cannot admit even for a moment, or for the sake of argument, that the pretended award given by the two Arbitrators, is worth anything either in favour of Ontario or against Quebec—not worth to Ontario what it is rumored she had to pay, before the so-called award would be signed. It will be in the recollection of many of the members of this House, the action which was taken by the Government, and fully endorsed by the Legislature, in protesting against any validity being given, by the Dominion Government, to the pretended award, as rendered by two arbitrators only, when this Province was unrepresented on the Board or before the arbitrators.

The action of the Dominion Government was anxiously looked for by our people. That Government has the payment of the subsidies to the respective Local Governments to make, under the B. N. A. Act of 67. Inasmuch as the interest on the surplus debt of the late Province of Canada, over the sixty-two and a half million dollars, assigned by that Act to the Dominion Government, has to be paid by the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec, or retained by the Dominion Government out of their respective subsidies.

It was no wonder, considering the issue at stake, that we, in this Province, were anxious to know what validity, if any, would be given, by the Dominion Government, to a judgment rendered so much at variance with what we believed to be equitable and just. The Dominion Government did what I am bound to say I fully expected, in so far as paying no attention to the award was concerned, that is, that no calculation should be made in paying the subsidies to the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec respectively, upon the proportion of the surplus debt assigned to each Province by the award.

The Dominion Government treated the award as no *just* award, and acted as if it had not been rendered, without expressing in set terms, as I was in hopes would have been done, that the proceedings of the two Arbitrators,—the one appointed by the Dominion Government and the one appointed by the Government of Ontario,—after the withdrawal of the Arbitrator appointed by the Quebec Government, were utterly null and void. (Hear.) However, so far as practical purposes were concerned, the Dominion Government treated the award as worthless, and, possibly, with the view of getting out of rather a tight place, or of shifting off some measure of responsibility upon others, it was suggested that the two Provinces might agree on a joint case to be submitted to the Committee of the Privy Council of England—the highest tribunal in the British dominions—for its opinion thereon, or if this were not done, either Province might appeal to the Privy Council for an opinion on the question submitted. Such opinion, when obtained, to be a guide for the Dominion Government in its future action in the premises.

Now I must confess, personally, to having strong objections against appealing to the English Privy Council, upon the Arbitration matter. I am of opinion the whole question might, and should have been settled on this side the water. Here a better knowledge exists of the whole facts of the case in relation to the former position of the Provinces of U. and L. Canada at the time of the Union in 1841, and of the whole current of legislation during the Union; and here also the pretensions of the two provinces could be better understood, appreciated, and adjudicated upon than by a tribunal in another country, however learned, talented and desirous of doing justice in the premises the members of that tribunal might be. (Hear, hear.)

Ontario, however, insisted upon going before the Privy Council in England, and lest it might be supposed—or urged against us hereafter, that we had fears of the justice of our cause, and of the result before the English Privy Council, and lest our non-action and non-consent and silence might be construed into an admission of the award, or a waiver of our protest against it, the Government agreed, so far as to acknowledge the record of proceedings had before the Arbitrators as kept by the Dominion Arbitrator, while Quebec was repre-

sent before them, to be substantially correct. Of course, after Quebec withdrew from the Arbitration we could say nothing about the records. The Minutes, I must say, were kept imperfectly, not signed by the party keeping them, no evidence reduced to writing, and the original book of Minutes given into the possession of the Treasurer of Ontario.

The Government of Quebec has agreed thus far, in order that the record of proceedings, such as it is, might be made up for the Privy Council. Our Government has had prepared, in order to protect the rights of the Province, and now nearly ready for printing, a statement of our pretensions, respecting the legality of the proceedings of the two Arbitrators, and of our rights as a Province, respecting the division of the surplus debt and assets, with documents, and legal opinions in support of what we believe to be our joint and equitable claims, to be laid, if need be, before the Privy Council, in answer to the case of Ontario. (Hear, hear.) Hon. Members may rest assured everything will be done to present the claims of Quebec in their true light before the Privy Council in England, and no pains spared to obtain justice. It would be useless for us, to endeavor to induce the Dominion Government, to assume the surplus debt of Canada and make compensation to the other Provinces, before in the first place, having the pretended award declared—as I have confidence will be done—by the Privy Council, null and void. Then when matters are placed back as they were at the time of the withdrawal of our arbitrator, we can, failing an amicable arrangement between the two Provinces, bring the matter before the Dominion Government and Legislature, with some chance of success. (Cheers.)

I need not, Mr. Speaker, allude at much greater length to this subject. The Blue Book issued at last session of the House, if carefully read by members, will aid them in forming an opinion as to how matters were conducted by the Government. For the information of such Hon. Members who were not present at last session, and as shewing the iniquity of the so-called award, I may say, that notwithstanding U. Canada came into the Union with Lower Canada in 1841, with a debt of nearly six millions of dollars, as proved by her own public accounts—and Lower-

Canada at that time (in 1841) had not a single dollar of debt, but had upwards of \$300,000 in cash in the Treasury, and equal assets to Upper-Canada—the award rendered, I was going to say by the two Arbitrators for Ontario, gave only about \$500,000 more of the surplus debt, for Ontario to pay, than to Quebec, and awarded of assets to Ontario three dollars in value to one dollar given to this Province. They ignored the fact that Upper Canada in '41 was bankrupt, while Lower Canada was prosperous, and not only that, but the fact to which I would direct the attention of Hon. Members—that the debt due by Upper Canada in 1841, the time of the Union with Lower Canada, *is still unpaid*, and forms part of the surplus debt, at this day, over the 62½ millions assumed by the Dominion Government. (Hear, hear.)

If Upper Canada had come into the Union with Lower Canada in 1841 without debt, as we did, there would have been only some 4½ millions of dollars of surplus debt to be divided between Ontario and Quebec, instead of some 10½ millions, as the account now stands. (Hear, hear.) Again, one other point which reference to the printed documents alluded to, will prove, is, that the Hon. Mr. Justice Day, the Arbitrator appointed by Quebec, did *not* resign his office, as some have pretended, because he differed, in opinion with the other Arbitrators, but because they persisted in pronouncing a preliminary judgment, which, if adhered to, bound them to a course of action—before the whole case was submitted to them—which could not, in the nature of things, leave them in a position to do justice, or which, if departed from, placed them in the unenviable position of violating their own judgment. (Cheers.) This latter alternative they adopted, and in every case in favor of Ontario and against Quebec.

The said memorable award actually gives to Ontario a less share of the surplus debt to pay, than her factum, laid before the Arbitrators, said she ought to pay, consequently placing upon Quebec a larger amount than ever Ontario said this Province should bear. But this is not all. Ontario had awarded her a larger share of the assets than she pretended belonged to her, thus taking off from Quebec assets which Ontario said belonged to us. It is hardly to be wondered at that Ontario should wish such an award to be

confirmed. Mr. Speaker, I have no fears of being called upon to submit to the decision of the Privy Council in England, confirming the award. (Cheers.) No disinterested tribunal can sanction such gross and manifest injustice to this Province, entailing lasting injury on this important part of the Dominion, (loud cheers,)—which is, I boldly say, second to none other in its loyalty and submission to constituted authority, whether human or Divine, and second to no other Province in the Dominion in its efforts to promote the prosperity and advancement of our common country. Quebec, as a unit on this question, cannot be ignored, or fail to obtain her just rights. And, however much we may differ on minor questions, affecting our Province, let us act with unanimity on this vital question. (Cheers). With one heart and voice, let us assert our determination to obtain a just and equitable decision of the question at issue between us and Ontario, and I have no fear as to the result. (Loud cheers.)

I now proceed, Mr. Speaker, more particularly to my statements concerning the receipts and expenditure, of the past fiscal year, ending the 30th June last. I may remark that the estimated receipts of that period were included in the estimated receipts of the previous six months, owing to the plan adopted by my predecessor in office, I may say, however, that the estimated receipts were fully borne out by the actual receipts; and the estimated expenditure more than the actual expenditure. I come first, therefore, to the receipts and expenditure of the fiscal year ending 30th June last:

Receipts for Fiscal Year ending 30th June, 1871.

DOMINION GOVERNMENT.

Cash on account subsidy.....	\$790,000 00
(Retained by Dominion Govern- ment on the year's Subsidy.....)	\$169,252.80

CROWN LANDS DEPARTMENT.

General Receipt.....	\$ 61,272 76
Woods and Forests.....	406,480 57

Crown Domain—Seigniory of Lauzon—Deposits on Lands and Timber Collections, etc.....	40,278 23
	\$508,081 56

SPECIAL FUNDS.

Clergy Lands (Municipalities..... Fund).....	\$ 6,783 64
Jesuits' Estates (Superior Education and Income Funds).....	22,217 51
	\$29,001 15

BILLS RECEIVABLE.

Paid since June 30, 1870.....	\$ 14,285 91
Total Receipts from Crown Lands.....	\$551,268 62
Less Bills Receivable included in above, not yet matured.....	15,853 66
	\$535,414 96

Showing an increase of Receipts, over the preceding year, in the Crown Lands Department, of \$33,913 23.

We have heard something of the oppression, by the Crown Lands Department, of poor settlers, by the enforcement of collections on lands purchased of the Government by actual settlers.

There is now due upon lands sold for settling purposes, by the books of the Crown Lands Department, the large sum of \$626,769.39 and the collections of the past year, from this source, only amount to \$66,360.17, about 10½ per cent., and I don't believe a single case can be made out of oppression of any settlers actually living on their lands, and unable to pay, by forced collections being exacted of them.

As Roads and Railways are built, these settlers will be more able to pay, and I anticipate, year by year, a gradual increase of receipts from this source of revenue.

LAW FEE FUND.

Stamps.....	\$73,927 95	
Collections upon civil processes in our Courts.....	8,593 85	
		\$82,526 80

BUILDING AND JURY FUND.

Stamps.....	\$ 7,966 46	
Collections.....	14,424 84	
		22,391 30

COURT HOUSE TAX.

Stamps.....	\$17,058 58	
Collection.....	3,695 92	
		20,754 50
Montreal.....	\$19,203 15	
Aylmer.....	816 53	
Kamouraska.....	719 81	
Bonaventure.....	15 01	
		\$20,754 50

STAMPS UNDISTRIBUTED.

Law.....	\$6,338 46	
Registration.....	3,202 99	
		9,541 45
		\$135,214 05

To be found in Statement No. 2 of Receipts, viz:

Law Stamps.....	\$99,648 74
Registration Stamps.....	8,845 70
Law Fees, exclusive of Stamps.....	8,598 85
Building and Jury Fund, do	14,424 84
Montreal Court House, do	3,695 92
	\$135,214 05

Proving the above credits.

LICENSES.

Proceeds of Tavern, Shop, Auctioneer, Ped- lar Licenses, etc.....	\$100,964 91
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I am happy to say, that under our new License Act, the Revenue derivable from Licenses will probably be increased a little for the current year. When doing away with Tavern Licenses to Grocers, in Montreal and Quebec, I expected a decrease of Revenue; but I hoped that crime would thereby be diminished and the cost less for the administration of justice. Revenue, in my opinion, should not be our only object, when good morals and the peace of the community are at stake.

EDUCATION—NORMAL SCHOOLS.

McGill	\$2,282 34	
Jaquet Cartier.....	2,432 10	
Laval.....	2,039 37	
		\$6,753 81

Superannuated Teachers' Fund contributed by Teachers.....	\$626 09
Normal School Building Fund.....	800 00
<i>Journal of Public Instruction</i>	449 14
	\$8,629 04

PUBLIC WORKS.

Rent pasture near gaol.....	\$60 00
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CASUAL REVENUE.

Consists of proceeds of stolen goods, fines from Clerks of the Peace, copies of official documents, &c.....	\$1,008 70
Reformatory St. Vincent de Paul, maintenance	3,996 66
St. John's Lunatic Asylum, maintenance.....	365 00
Municipal Loan Fund.....	15,865 75
Quebec Fire Loan.....	5,688 80

OFFICIAL GAZETTE.

"Official Gazette"	\$18,185 11
This does not include printing done for the Government during the year, which, at reduced rates, would amount to \$3,172.42, which, if paid by the Government direct, would make the amount \$21,557.53.	
The \$18,185.11 are therefore cash receipts; all receipts being paid into the Treasury, and all expenses paid by it. Cash profits show \$11,075.68 over expenditure, and including what the Government would have had to pay if the <i>Gazette</i> was published by other parties, \$14,247.90.	
Printing of the Laws	12 00

The fees on private bills were not paid into the Treasury until after the 30th June, and will appear in the current year's receipts.

INTEREST.

On Special Deposits	\$26,383 49
On Bills Receivable	41 78
	26,425 27

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

Sheriff of Montreal, House of Correction	3,250 63
Sheriff of Montreal, Corporation for Gaol Guard	2,400 00
Sheriff of Montreal, old furniture sold	15 90
	\$5,665 63

BEAUPORT LUNATIC ASYLUM.

Received from British Sailors, and repaid by Collector of Customs	41 28
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REFUNDS ON APPROPRIATIONS.

Schools in poor municipalities	10 00
Common Schools	447 66
Books for Prizes	101 39

Agricultural Instruction.....	\$ 143 45
Superannuated Teachers.....	31 00
Special Police, 33 Vic., Cap. 24, per Commissioner	63 35
Colonization Society, L'Islet.	150 00
Roads and Bridges, per J. D. E. Lionais.....	40 69
Legislative Council.....	139 90
Legislative Assembly.....	1,378 93
Contingencies of Departments.....	1,244 09
	\$3,750 46

Total Receipts for the year.....	\$1,651,287 09
On hand 30th June, 1870.....	667,243 49
	\$2,318,530 58

SUMMARY OF RECEIPTS.

Dominion Government.....	\$790,000 00
Crown Lands Department.....	535,391 48
Law Fee Fund, Building and Jury Fund, Stamps and Court House Tax	135,214 05
Licenses of various kinds.....	100,964 91
From all other sources, Education, Casual Revenue, Municipal Loan Fund, Reformatory, <i>Official Gazette</i> , Interest, Quebec Fire Loan, &c., &c.....	89,716 65
Total receipts for the year.....	\$1,651,287 09

EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30TH JUNE, 1871.

Legislation	\$128,921 93
For Legislative Council	\$31,600 00
Do Assembly.....	86,400 00
Sundry expenses of Elections, Parliamentary Library, Salaries and Contingencies of Clerks of Chancery and Law, Printing, Binding and distributing the Laws.....	10,921 93
	\$128,921 93

Civil Government.....	\$128,673 25
Departmental Salaries.....	\$102,085 00
Do Contingencies.....	26,588 25
	\$128,673 25

Administration of Justice.....	\$271,212 13
Law Fee Fund, Salaries of Sheriffs, Prothonotaries, Clerks of Circuit Courts, Court of Appeals, &c..	\$108,806 88
Building and Jury Fund.....	72 66
General expenditure, Criminal Prosecutions, Clerks of the Peace, Coroners Contingencies, &c.....	162,382 59
	\$271,212 13

Police	\$42,941 44
General : Salaries, Montreal and Quebec.....	\$ 7,912 61
Special under 33 Victoria, Cap. 24..	35,028 83
	\$42,941 44

This includes clothing and arms, which will not be required annually :

REFORMATORY.

St. Vincent de Paul, maintenance.....	\$24,299 75
Prison Inspection.....	3,317 26
Thus making the administration of Justice, Police, Reformatory and Prison Inspection cost.....	\$341,770 58

EDUCATION.

Expenditure amounts to.....	\$284,013 41
Superior Education.....	\$74,083 00
Common Schools.....	124,339 03
Schools in poor municipalities.....	7,735 00
Normal Schools.....	43,590 00

School Inspectors' salaries.....	\$19,061 38
Books for Prizes.....	2,500 00
Journal of Education.....	2,400 00
Superannuated Teachers' Fund...	4,700 00
	\$278,413 41

LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTIONS.

Sundry—In Montreal and Quebec.	\$3,600 00
Board of Arts and Manufactures...	2,000 00
Total Education, &c.....	\$284,013 41

AGRICULTURE.

Sundry Agricultural Societies, with per centage allowed by law to the Council of Agriculture.....	\$ 46,553 00
Board of Agriculture.....	8,000 00
Agricultural Education in connection with Normal Schools.....	615 09
Grants to Agricultural Colleges, Ste. Anne, L'Assomption and Compton, (each \$800).....	2,400 00
Paid Ste. Anne and L'Assomption, amounts due since 1867.....	2,180 70
Total for Agricultural purposes.....	\$59,748 79
Immigration.....	19,581 94

This amount has been expended principally for salaries of agents in Europe and Quebec, and for printing and distributing information in Europe, concerning the capabilities and resources of the Province. The results may be expected in the influx of immigrants next season. We must make great efforts, in this direction, and in order to keep pace with our sister Provinces, we hope to receive, from the Dominion Government, an additional amount to our own appropriations for this service.

Colonization purposes.....	\$221,652 30
Societies (of which 30 are paid).....	\$7,594 75

Roads—1st class.....	\$124,847 90
2nd do	17,587 10
3rd do	11,951 35
Ste. Anne des Monts, (special).....	10,000 00
Maps and statements.....	2,000 00
Railway, Quebec and Gosford	48,171 20
	\$221,652 30

Making the Expenditure for Agriculture, Colonization, and Immigration purposes, during past year, \$300,983 03.

Gosford Road—We were obliged to give debentures or cash to the Company. Bonds must have borne 6 per cent. interest, and Sinking Fund 2 per cent, to meet Bonds at maturity, in say 24 years.

The Government only receives from 4 to 5 per cent. interest upon deposits in banks.

To have money lying at that interest, and to pay 6 per cent. interest and 2 per cent. Sinking Fund, seemed to me poor policy. I therefore recommended the Government to pay the \$48,171 20 in cash, which is the amount capitalized of the \$150 a mile, payable for 20 years under the law.

A considerable saving was thus effected to the Province. The Railway Company would have probably preferred the Bonds of the Government, for which a premium would have been paid; but I thought the interest of the Province would be better protected by paying the money at once, and, at the same time, do no injustice to the Railway Company.

This amount paid, should be recollected, in looking at the amount in the Treasury at close of fiscal year.

PUBLIC WORKS AND BUILDINGS.

Rents, Insurances and Repairs....	\$ 25,230 07
Inspections and Surveys.....	1,884 10
Reformatory St. Vincent de Paul..	3,098 57
Montreal Court House.....	941 77
Batiscan Bridge.....	6,500 00

Rents, Insurances and Repairs to		
Court Houses and Gaols.....	\$8,735	77
Aylmer Court House and Gaol....	8,146	56
Montreal Gaol.....	7,519	81
Court House and Gaol, Bonaven-		
ture County.....	2,775	48
Court House and Gaol, Gaspé		
County.....	2,590	09
New Gaol, Quebec.....	16,189	81
Do Sherbrooke.....	3,904	63
	\$87,516	66

GAOL WALLS.

Court Houses and Gaols, new districts:—

Arthabaska.....	\$3,564	88
Joliette	4,500	97
Montmagny	4,647	52
Richelieu.....	4,792	22
Bedford.....	2,232	90
Iberville.....	2,162	08
Rimouski.....	3,010	27
St. Hyacinthe.....	3,212	37
Terrebonne.....	3,369	00
	31,492	21

Total Public Works and Buildings.....	\$119,008	87
Dorchester Bridge Investment, North Shore		
Quebec Turnpike Trust Company.....	15,000	00
Charities.....	172,193	00
Beauport Lunatic Asylum, (say		
average cost of 770 patients at		
\$143 each).....	\$105,458	00
St. John's Lunatic Asylum (say 75		
patients, cost about \$266 each)....	20,000	00
Marine Hospital, Quebec.....	4,000	00
Miscellaneous Charities—		
Hospitals and Asylums, various		
kinds	35,970	00
Reformatory Schools.....	2,434	79
Industrial Schools.....	4,330	30
	\$172,193	09

Expenditure through Crown Lands Department.....	\$ 93,701 17
For Registration Service	
(Cadastre).....	\$16,202 70
Surveys.....	24,000 00
General Expenditure, Agencies, &c.....	53,498 47
	\$ 93,701 17
Quebec Official Gazette.....	\$ 7,109 43
Municipalities Fund, C.S.L.C. Cap. 110 Sec 7.....	494 00
Arbitration under Constitutional Act.....	2,598 65
Miscellaneous Expenditure.....	9,013 44
Aid to sufferers by fire at Saguenay.....	10,400 00
Do do do Ottawa.....	3,000 00
Licenses, Stamps, &c., &c.....	2,116 45
Making the total expenditure by Warrant through the Treasury Department for the year.....	\$1,618,997 30
To which must be added :—	
Paid by Revenue officers out of collections on account of Licenses and to Municipalities under Law.....	\$15,227 43
Building and Jury Fund, paid by Sheriffs on account of their collections.....	7,254 31
	22,481 74
	\$1,641,479 04
Add also paid on outstanding Warrants June 30, 1870.....	33,639 92
	\$1,675,118 96
Less—Warrants outstanding June 30th, 1871..	15,623 71
	\$1,659,495 25
So that taking the total receipts during the year with the amount in Treasury, June 30th, 1870.....	\$2,318,530 58
And deducting the total expenditure during the year.....	1,659,495 25
Leaves in Treasury, June 30th, 1871.....	\$659,085 88

Disposed of as follows:

Special deposit on Interest, Bank of Montreal.....	\$350,000 00
Do do Union Bank.....	200,000 00
Ordinary deposit Bank of Montreal, 109,035 33	
	659,035 33

It will be observed that this amount is only \$8,208.16 less in the Treasury than on the 30th June, 1870—but it will be recollected that we have paid the Quebec and Gosford Railway Company, \$48,171.20, and invested on interest \$15,000 in the Dorchester Bridge, and paid outstanding Warrants \$33,639.92 on the former years' business. If these amounts, which may in some account be reckoned as extraordinary payments, were added to the actual balance in Treasury the amount would have been larger this year than last, by \$72,979.25, after deducting warrants unpaid on 30th June last.

Our principal expenditure would appear to be on the following services, viz:

Legislation	\$128,921 93
Civil Government.....	128,673 25
Administration of Justice, Police, etc.....	341,770 58
Education.....	284,013 41
Agriculture, Colonization and Immigration...	300,983 03
Public Works and buildings.....	119,008 87
Charities, Hospitals, Insane Asylums, etc.....	172,193 09
Crown Lands Expenditure, Agencies, Commission, etc.....	93,701 17
Sundry other items including donations to Saguenay and Ottawa sufferers by fire.....	34,731 97
Investment Dorchester Bridge.....	15,000 00

\$1,618,997 30

To which must be added paid by outside service, Tavern Licenses Sheriffs on Building and Jury Fund.....	22,418 74
Paid outstanding Warrants of 1869 and 1870..	33,639 92

\$1,675,118 96

Less outstanding Warrants	15,623 71
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Total expenditure for fiscal year ending 30th June, 1871.....\$1,659,495 25

Thus far, Mr. Speaker, I have been dealing with the actual Receipts and Expenditure for the past fiscal year.

Hon. Members will find in the Public Accounts the details of the business of the past year, arranged, I think, in such a manner as to be easily understood.

I now proceed to lay before the House the Estimated Receipts and Expenditure for the fiscal year beginning the 1st July next. These have been prepared with great care, based on the experience of the past four years both as regards receipts and expenditure, and I hope the House will find them reasonable and in the main correct.

I have not the faculty, Mr. Speaker, of giving a *couleur de rose* to my financial statements which some have. I rather prefer to give the Estimate of receipts under the mark than over, thinking it wiser, in our circumstances, to have our actual receipts *over* than *under* the Estimate, it being far more pleasant for a Treasurer to find receipts in excess of his calculation, than in the opposite direction, and more pleasant for the House and the country too.

It is a remarkable circumstance that a Treasurer, finds a much larger number of persons wishing to help him in spending money, for purposes, which they allege, the safety of the country materially depends upon, and without which the Constitution is in great danger, than to find parties suggesting modes of increasing the revenue, and trying to save the Constitution from danger, and the country from ruin, by assisting in increasing the Treasury receipts from time to time.

However, so it is, and I hope the assistance of Hon. Members will be zealously devoted to bringing in money to the Treasury, as others are to draw it out. Amongst all the petitions to this House there has not been one proposing to put money into the treasury, but the reverse.

The first item of receipts I put down is from the Dominion Government—\$800,000. The annual subsidy coming from the Dominion to this Province, according to the population by the census of 1861, amounts to \$959,252.80. This estimate is allowing the Dominion Government to

retain, on account of interest, \$159,252.80 besides the interest on certain trust funds, in the hands of the Dominion, about which there is no question as to their belonging to us.

I have made a calculation of what should have been paid us, by the Dominion, as compared with what has actually been paid us, for the past four years, including amounts paid for us by the Dominion and received on our account by that Government, charging the interest on the trust funds belonging to Quebec against the Dominion. This statement has been prepared up to the end of the next fiscal year, showing a fair balance, in our favor, to apply on our share of the interest due to the Dominion Government, on whatever part of the surplus debt this province may eventually have to assume.

What that may be, it is impossible for me to say, but I have no hesitation in stating that, if anything like a fair proportion of the surplus debt is assigned to us—we have no reason to be discouraged as to our perfect ability to pay the interest, in any year, without making any very serious inroad upon the cash in the Treasury. These calculations are based on receiving \$800,000 a year from the Dominion Government for the present and next fiscal year.

I now come to the Estimated Receipts from

THE CROWN LANDS DEPARTMENT.

These are put down from a careful Estimate made by the officers of that department, which I have no doubt will be fully realized at.....		\$ 515,001 00
From Law and Registration, Stamps (Law Fee Fund, Building and Jury Fund, Court House Tax, etc., etc).....		135,000 00
Inland Revenue Licenses of various kinds.....		110,000 00
I find that the Estimate made last year for the current year's receipts will probably not be quite realized. The difference arises from withholding Tavern Licenses to Grocers in Montreal and Quebec.		
From Educational receipts, including Normal Schools.....		10,000 00
Casual Revenue.....		1,260 00

Reformatory St. Vincent de Paul, St. John's Lunatic Asylum, House of Correction, Mon- treal.....	\$9,860 00
Municipal Loan Fund.....	50,000 00
Quebec Fire Loan.....	5,000 00
<i>Official Gazette</i>	18,000 00
Fees on Private Bills and Printing.....	2,000 00
Interest on Deposits and Bills receivable.....	25,000 00
Special Police.....	28,500 00

Making our Estimated Revenue amount to....\$1,709,621 00

I come now, Mr. Speaker, to the Estimated Expenditure for the fiscal year between the 30th June, 1872, and the 30th June, 1873.

Hon. Members will bear in mind, that in appropriating the respective amounts for the different services mentioned in the Estimates, it does not necessarily follow that the sums voted will be all spent; but I prefer to ask for enough to cover the probable expenditure, preferring to have a little too much appropriated, to having special warrants issued, to cover deficiencies in appropriations.

Any balance appropriated which is not required to be spent is retained in the Treasury, and written off the particular appropriation at the end of the fiscal year.

In this way the House knows exactly the appropriation for the year to any particular service. And first I come to

I. LEGISLATION.

Legislative Council, Indemnity and Mileage to Members, and Salaries and Contingencies	\$ 37,751 00
Legislative Assembly for similar services.....	93,600 00
Expenses of Elections.....	2,000 00
Parliamentary Library.....	5,000 00
Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, Salary and Contingencies.....	1,000 00
Printing, Binding, and Distributing the Laws.	5,000 00
Law Clerk—Salary and Contingencies.....	8,445 00

Making a proposed Total Expenditure for Le-
gislation of.....\$147,796 00

II. CIVIL GOVERNMENT.

Salaries of Officers and Contingencies..... \$182,325 00

The items of this estimate have been printed in detail and given to the House, showing the salaries of all employed in the Departments.

III. Administration of Justice.....	\$293,238 00
Police—covering statutory appropriations and including special Police.....	44,000 00
Reformatory St. Vincent de Paul, Maintenance.....	33,000 00
Prison Inspection.....	3,600 00

Making Total Expenditure proposed for the Administration of Justice.....	\$373,838 00
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In connection with these items, I would say, that complaints are frequently made as to the cost of this service in this Province, as compared with Ontario, and with certain parts of the United States.

It should, however, be kept in mind that a large portion of what is paid in this Province, direct from the Public Treasury, is, in Ontario and in the United States, paid from local taxation through Municipal Councils and other bodies. And so soon as Municipalities are prepared to assume the payment of a share of the expense of the Administration of Justice from local funds, this portion of our expenditure may be reduced. Till then I do not see how much reduction can be made; only in so far as old officers die or resign, or otherwise vacate office, the new incumbents will, when it is possible, be placed on fees of office, as regulated by law, instead of salaries, as heretofore.

The next item is for

IV. EDUCATION, COVERING STATUTORY APPROPRIATIONS.

Superior Education.....	\$ 71,000 00
Common Schools.....	145,000 00
Schools in poor Municipalities.....	8,000 00
Normal Schools.....	42,500 00

Salaries of School Inspectors.....	\$20,500 00
Books for prizes.....	2,500 00
Journals of Education.....	2,400 00
Superannuated Teachers.....	5,100 00
High Schools Montreal and Quebec.....	2,470 00
Compensation to R. C. Institutions for grant to High Schools.....	4,940 00
Total Education.....	\$304,410 00
Literary and Scientific Institutions Montreal and Quebec.....	2,800 00
Arts and Manufactures.....	3,000 00
	\$311,210 00

With respect to the item for Arts and Manufactures, it was increased last year \$1,000, it being proposed to open schools in the principal cities and towns of the Province, if encouragement is given by local assistance.

I have great confidence in educating our people, our mechanics especially, to a higher standard of excellence, so that they may be better able to understand, and make drawings of plans and specifications, of the particular department of industry they wish to pursue.

The gentlemen who take charge of this appropriation are doing a good work, and should be encouraged by public and private aid. I hold, Mr. Speaker, that it is the bounden duty of the State, as far as possible, to assist in educating the children of the citizens of the country.

If we would keep up with the progressive times, in which we live, we must educate our people.—I had almost said, compel parents and guardians of our youth, to avail themselves of the facilities offered for educating the rising generation. And it will be observed that, in relation to Common Schools, the grant asked for is larger than usual. It is to be hoped that corresponding efforts will be made to afford opportunity, from local sources, for the support of our Common Schools.

V. AGRICULTURE, IMMIGRATION AND COLONIZATION.

Agricultural Societies—covering statutory appropriations.....	\$50,000 00
Board of Agriculture.....	4,000 00
This amount is less than formerly, as the Board does not anticipate so large an expenditure as formerly.	
Agricultural Schools—two French and one English.....	2,400 00
Total Agriculture.....	\$56,400 00
Immigration, the same as last year.....	20,000 00

COLONIZATION.

Colonization Societies—covering statutory appropriations.....	\$15,000 00
Colonization Roads, 1st Class.....	90,000 00
“ “ 2nd “	23,000 00
“ “ 3rd “	10,000 00
Railways—covering statutory appropriations.	15,000 00
Ste. Anne des Monts to Fox River Road, Gulf Coast Road.....	4,000 00
Making for Colonization, Agriculture and Immigration purposes.....	\$233,400 00

The amount for Colonization Roads has been somewhat reduced, owing to the expected drain on the Treasury for Colonization Railways.

We do not expect to be able to meet, in cash, the demands on the Treasury for the subsidy to these Railways; but I have made provision for the interest on what is expected to be paid.

We intend to issue Debentures under the law, if necessary, and may, or may not, place these Debentures in the hands of the several Railway Companies; but the Government intend to either pay cash or Debentures, so soon as the law is complied with by the respective Railway Companies.

I now come to

VI. PUBLIC WORKS AND BUILDINGS.

Rents, Insurances and Repairs generally..... \$32,680 00

This item is a trifle larger than last year, owing to the Parliament Buildings needing repairs.

Inspection and Surveys..... \$ 4,000 00
Public Departments—toward purchase of, or
alteration of buildings..... 50,000 00

This is a re-vote of the amount formerly appropriated; but which will not be spent during the current fiscal year.

Montreal Registry Office—to purchase or
build..... \$8,000 00

The following appropriations are chargeable to the Building and Jury Fund of each District, in so far as expended therein.

Rents of Court Houses and Gaols and Insurances and Repairs..... \$13,920 00

Montreal Gaol (for females,)—to erect new building. This is a re-vote..... 40,000 00

Montreal Gaol—to increase the height of surrounding walls and construct Guard House 5,000 00

Bonaventure Court House and Gaol—to complete..... 4,500 00

Gaspé Court House and Gaol—to complete... 4,500 00

It is possible these two last amounts may be required before the 1st July next, in which case, I propose to have a Special Warrant issued, to cover these appropriations and at once, on the beginning of next fiscal year, to have these written off. These amounts only will be spent.

Quebec Court House—to enlarge the same (a re-vote)..... \$7,000 00

Quebec Court House—for fencing ground..... 300 00

Sherbrooke do do—to erect a room for Advocates Library..... 1,200 00

Three Rivers do do—to erect a wing..... 1,700 00

Court Houses and Gaols, New Districts, (re-vote)..... 6,000 00

Total Public Works and Buildings..... \$178,800 00

This service has had less appropriated by some \$50,000 than last year, and I hope will be gradually reducing from year to year as Court Houses and Gaols are now mostly erected in all the Districts.

The next item, which is a serious one is

VII. CHARITIES.

Beauport Lunatic Asylum.....	\$114,000 00
St. John's do do	22,000 00
Marine Hospital, Quebec	4,000 00
Miscellaneous Charities,—consisting of grants to Hospitals and Asylums of various kinds....	39,870 00
Reformatory Schools.....	5,940 00
Industrial do	5,400 00
Total Charities.....	\$191,210 00

It is impossible to grant assistance to all the Institutions requiring aid. The principal part of the list on Estimates are taken from that used by the former Legislature of Canada. Possibly a revision of the list might be made so as to apportion the grants a little differently; but on the whole, so long as the practice is followed of granting aid to such Institutions, and I do not well see how it can be discontinued, the aid is given, as near as may be, according to the necessities of each particular case.

VIII. MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES.

Quebec Official Gazette.....	\$ 7,600 00
Arbitration under Constitutional Act.....	5,000 00
Miscellaneous	20,000 00
	\$32,600 00

IX. COLLECTION, MANAGEMENT AND OTHER CHARGES ON REVENUE.

Municipalities Fund... ..	\$ 3,000 00
Registration Service under Crown Lands Department.....	18,202 00

Surveys.....	\$24,000 00
General expenditure by Crown Lands Department, including Jesuits' Estates, Clergy Lands, Crown Domain, Seignior of Lauzon and Woods and Forests.....	50,100 00
Stamps and Licenses.....	3,000 00
	\$98,302 00

Making the proposed expenditure for fiscal year ending June 30th, 1873, amount to.....\$1,699,481 00

To cover Special Warrants for expenditure already made for fiscal year ending June 30th, 1871, (see Public Accounts, 1871, page 86)..... \$43,159 32

It will be in the recollection of many Hon. Members, that on previous occasions, when presenting the Estimates, I stated that I believed my estimated receipts, would be less than the actual receipts; and the actual expenditure, less than the appropriations.

Such have been the facts of the case, and I shall be much disappointed if the same results are not found at the close of the present and next fiscal years respectively.

I estimate the balance in the Treasury, June 30th, 1873, at \$700,000.

Mr. Speaker, if the House is not already wearied with my remarks, I shall advert, for a short time, to our position as a Dominion and as a Province. A retrospect occasionally of the events which have transpired in our country, may teach us lessons for the future. Looking at what has been accomplished within the past few years—may stimulate to further efforts in a certain direction—or teach us to avoid certain other courses; and, although I do not intend to lecture the House as to its duty, or to indulge in criticism, particularly on past events, at the same time, with the permission of the House, I hope not to weary Hon. Members too much, in glancing backwards on the history of our country for the past few years, and forward, on what it appears to me, this country may become.

Any one acquainted with the state of political parties in Canada, a short time previous to Confederation, well knows that things, in our political atmosphere, did not look very promising. Party spirit ran so high, and parties were so equally divided, that it was difficult for any Government to stand any great length of time. Any government might be easily overturned by the union of a small number of individuals; and things assumed such an aspect that, to avert some crisis of a serious nature, a change in the constitution seemed absolutely necessary.

Amongst other solutions of our difficulties, a Confederation of the Provinces was proposed, and, after several combinations of political parties, which I need not advert to, and conferences between delegates from Canada, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia, the present form, or nearly so, of a Union of these Provinces, was adopted, and finally came into operation on the first July, 1867, under the constitution and provisions of the B. N. A. Act of 1867, passed by the Imperial Parliament. I need hardly say that great differences of opinion existed, amongst our public men, as to the measure of Confederation itself and its effects on the country. To the credit of many of our public men, be it said, that while they opposed the Union, before it was accomplished, still when Confederation became a fixed fact, they took hold and endeavored to make it a success—a line of conduct creditable to them as public men, and advantageous to the country. (Hear, hear.)

Let us look for a moment at what has been the result so far of the Confederation since it was accomplished, as I have said, 1st July, '67. At that time the old Province of Canada was divided, after a union of some 26 years, (between Upper and Lower Canada) into two Provinces, Quebec and Ontario. These with the Provinces of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, formed in July, '67, the Dominion of Canada, while each Province was made distinct for certain purposes, and endowed with certain powers and privileges, as defined in the Confederation Act.

It cannot be denied, I think, that the new system of Government has had the effect of advancing the prosperity of the Provinces, respectively. They are in a better position, to day, financially, commercially and socially, than

before the Union. (Hear.) In these Provinces, there is every protection to life and property that ever existed or exists in any country in the world, and to the fullest extent, civil and religious liberty are enjoyed. (Cheers.)

The facilities which the construction of the several lines of railway, now in progress or in contemplation, with the removal of duties on articles imported from one Province to the other, will promote interchange of products between the several Provinces, which did not exist heretofore, and which, without Confederation, would not probably have been brought about, for many years to come.

The numerous steamers and other vessels which, within the past few years, have been employed in commercial operations between these Provinces—formerly almost like foreign countries to each other—have proved, and will prove mutually advantageous to them all.

The improvement of the navigation of the St. Lawrence, by the erection of Light-Houses and the placing of buoys, to assist the mariner in reaching and coming into port, from the Ocean, and the deepening of the Channel above the tide waters of the Atlantic, will give still further impetus to commercial transactions between the different Provinces and foreign countries.

The enlargement of our magnificent canals, and the construction of like works, in addition to what has been done, will attract to the St. Lawrence the immense trade of the Western States, as being the cheapest and shortest route to Europe, and will attract foreign commerce to our shores. (Cheers.)

MANITOBA.

The incorporation of the Province of Manitoba and its surrounding territory, with its vast tracts of agricultural land, which are equal to any on this continent, and the magnificent lakes and rivers which intersect that country in every direction, will afford means of communication from one section to the other, than which no better can be found in any country.

The opening of that part of the Dominion by roads, railways and water communication, will attract settlers, and probably induce such of our own people as *will* migrate Westward, to enter the Manitoba territory, who otherwise would have probably gone to the United States, where, too many by far, for the good of our Province, have gone heretofore.

In Manitoba a system of Government has been adopted, and is now in good working order, similar in most respects to that in operation in the other Provinces.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

British Columbia, also, our most western sister, has within the present year, been admitted into the Confederation, on terms satisfactory to her people; and the liberal treatment by the Dominion Government and Legislature, as to the material aid granted for carrying on the Government of that Province, and the development of the vast resources of that extensive and important region, cannot fail to produce the happiest results. There, also, a Government has been organized on a similar basis to our own. Is in good working order, and we shall soon see representatives from the Atlantic coast, sitting side by side with representatives from the Pacific, along with the representatives from Central Canada, in the Dominion Parliament, consulting together and legislating, we hope, in such a way as will lay the foundation of a free, enlightened system of Government, which will last for ages, and hand down to posterity the names of those instrumental in forming this great Confederation, to be cherished for centuries to come by a happy and grateful people. (Cheers.)

The construction of a railway to the Pacific, and a continuation of our railways already built or in course of construction, will give a vast impetus to the prosperity of the whole Dominion, and will tend to bind the Provinces closer and closer together. It is not affirming too much, to say, that the Union of these Provinces and territories into one Confederation, has given us a statue among the nations of the earth, which the several Provinces could never have singly attained. This has also been accomplished, not by war and bloodshed, not at the expense of life and treasure,

but has been all quietly brought about by the efforts of a free, enlightened people, exercising rights enjoyed under a free system of Government, with the consent of all interested in the change; forming a happy contrast, with the former mode of establishing governments and nations by the power of the sword, and at awful sacrifice of life and property. (Cheers.)

The union, therefore, of our Provinces may justly be called a success so far. Our future success, as a nation, will depend, doubtless, upon the people of the Dominion, themselves, and how they exercise the rights they possess under our Constitution. If wise counsels prevail; if the true interests of the Dominion are looked to, guarded, and promoted by wise legislation; if the resources of the country are sought for and properly developed by judicious assistance from the Government in aid of private enterprise; if party spirit does not run so high as to make our public men seek the triumphs of party, and their own aggrandisement, above the true interests of the Dominion, then, we may rationally look for and expect the establishment of a free, enlightened system of Government, which will prove highly beneficial to our own people, prove an example to other countries, and leave the inhabitants of this Dominion to wish for no better position than that which they enjoy under their own government, and under the protection of the paternal government of Old England. (Loud cheers.)

The healthy competition which will naturally exist between the several Provinces, each to develop the particular resources of their own locality, by the introduction of foreign capital and foreign labor, will have a tendency to promote, not only the growth of the respective Provinces, but will build up the whole Dominion, in material prosperity. The variety of soil, climate, of mineral wealth of almost every kind, within the Dominion, cannot fail, in a few years, to induce a large immigration to our country, of just that kind which we need the most. What our Province lacks, another Province can supply. If Quebec cannot compete with the Western Provinces in the growth of bread-stuffs, she can supply them with manufactures in exchange for these. If one Province needs fuel and the products of the ocean, the Maritime Provinces can supply them in exchange for agricultural products and iron, without more

particularly enumerating the different products of each Province (Cheers.)

Now, what has Quebec, as a Province, done towards building up her own prosperity and that of the Dominion; —Large sums of money have been spent during the last four years, in the promotion of several important objects, the most prominent of which have been for Agriculture and Colonization purposes. I had prepared a statement of the sums spent on the principal objects of importance for the past four years, but I will not trouble the House further with figures to-night. I will mention only the amount paid out for Agricultural purposes, Colonization, Administration of Justice, and Charities, as \$3,765,656.04, out of \$5,731,796.49.

The following is a Summary of disbursements for four years, ending June 30th, 1871, by the Quebec Government :

Legislation	\$ 518,520 67
Civil Government.....	485,766 72
Administration of Justice, Police, Reformatory St. Vincent de Paul, and Prison Inspection..	1,300,511 78
Education, Literary and Scientific Institutions, Arts and Manufactures.....	1,113,106 79
Agriculture	212,464 09
Colonization Societies, Roads and Railways...	521,565 95
Immigration.....	25,540 06
Public Works and Buildings.....	365,261 48
Charities, Lunatic Asylums, Hospitals, Reformatory and Industrial Schools.....	618,107 45
Crown Lands Department, general expenditure	224,729 34
Surveys.....	83,568 05
Registration (Cadastres).....	44,575 72
Licenses and Stamps, Commissions paid to Municipalities, paid by Sheriffs on Building and Jury Fund from collections made by them.	167,914 96
Miscellaneous, comprising aid to Labrador settlers, aid to Saguenay and Ottawa sufferers by fire, <i>Official Gazette</i> , Arbitration expenses, removal from Ottawa to Quebec, Montreal, &c.....	109,263 43

Total expenditure for 4 years for all services. \$5,780,796 49

In addition to those large amounts actually spent, and I believe in most cases to the best advantage, with the full approval and consent of the Legislature, and for Agriculture and Colonization purposes far in excess of what was spent in this Province under the late Government of Canada; I may, Mr. Speaker, allude also to a few other points.

RAILWAYS.

The important aid given towards opening up various parts of the Province, by means of railways, has stimulated private enterprise to that degree, that we have various lines of railway in progress of construction, in almost every section of the Province. (Hear.) These, when completed, will prove highly advantageous to the country, and will, I doubt not, prove good investments, if not directly in cash returns to the Public Treasury, still in the stimulus given to private pursuits of every description, by furnishing cheap and rapid conveyance for agricultural products and manufactures, and will return us a hundred fold indemnity for the expenditure made. It is, I think, quite clear, that without aid given from the public chest, and from our Crown Lands Reserves, we should have seen very few Railway enterprises begun in our Province, and, perhaps, not one. It may not, Mr. Speaker, be unprofitable for us to look for a moment at what the position of Quebec will be, when the contemplated railways, towards the construction of which assistance has been promised, by the Legislature, either in cash subsidies or land grants, are in full operation.

THE GOSFORD RAILWAY.

To begin at our own doors, I feel quite safe in saying that the Quebec and Gosford Railway would not have been built, without assistance from the Public Treasury. I fancy the President and Directors of that Company, found it hard work enough to accomplish what they did, even with the Government aid; and would not have undertaken the work without such aid. A block of Crown Lands was sold to the Company at a reduced price, in order to induce the citizens of this city to assist in building the road, so that firewood might be obtained at lower rates than otherwise,

if not at present, certainly in a few years hence. The expectation of the Company that the Government would, on completion of the Railway, advance either debentures or cash, enabled the Directors to borrow money to carry on the undertaking. This expectation of the Company was fully met by the Government, as the public accounts show.

This Railway, some twenty-six miles in length, will I hope, in a few years be extended to Lake St. John, thus opening up a large tract of valuable settling lands, now almost inaccessible by land communication; and, while encouraging settlement, will tend to build up the city of Quebec, consequent upon having a well settled thriving back country.

THE NORTH SHORE RAILWAY AND THE MONTREAL NORTHERN COLONIZATION RAILWAY.

Then we have the project of a Railway already secured, taking us nearly 300 miles in a westerly direction from this city, so soon as local jealousies are allayed and conflicting local interests reconciled. I refer to the North Shore Railway from Quebec to Montreal, including the branch to the *Grandes Piles*, and the Montreal Northern Colonization Railway, from Montreal to Aylmer,

The grant of about 3½ millions of acres of land from the public domain, with the local aid afforded by the cities of Quebec, Montreal, and the municipalities along the line of road, will, without doubt, secure sufficient capital to ensure at an early day, the building of a railway from this city to Aylmer; and, I hope before long, a continuation of that line to Deep River, there to connect with and form part of the great Northern Pacific Railway through British territory its entire length. (Loud Cheers.) This line of road will open up the country north of the River St. Lawrence from this city to Montreal, from thence north of Ottawa River, and before long, I hope, as far west as Deep River, proving a source of wealth to these regions, and assisting not only in our important lumber operations, but in developing the vast mineral wealth with which the country north of the Ottawa abounds. (Cheers.)

THE QUEBEC AND NEW BRUNSWICK RAILWAYS.

Then again, commencing on the Southerly Shore of the St. Lawrence at River du Loup, *en bas*, we find not only the Intercolonial Railway fast approaching completion—built by Dominion funds, of which this Province will have to contribute its full share—but we find the Province of New Brunswick—eager to possess more direct communication with our Province and those west of us, than the Intercolonial will afford—asking assistance from Quebec towards the completion of the Quebec and New Brunswick Railway, from the New Brunswick line to River du Loup, through this Province. (Hear.)

This assistance our Legislature at last session granted to the extent asked for, viz:—A grant of 10,000 acres of land per mile for some 60 or 70 miles, through which the road will pass in this Province. The Government, however, in order that the land thus granted, should not keep back the settlement of that part of the country, stipulated that one-half, at least, of the land, should be located with settlers, within ten years from the opening of the road. This line of road, which I am happy to learn, is in fair prospect of being speedily built, will open up a large tract of fair settling lands, in this Province, and enable commercial operations to be carried on with much greater facility, between us and our neighbors in New Brunswick, than formerly existed by the St. Lawrence, or the United States routes. (Hear, hear.)

THE LEVIS AND KENNEBEC RAILWAY.

Then, to come a little nearer home, I refer, Mr. Speaker, to a proposed railway, of which you have heard before, and in which I am aware you feel a deep interest, and towards the completion of which you have largely contributed. I mean "The Levis and Kennebec Railway." To encourage the building of this line of railway, some seventy to eighty miles, south from Levis to the Province line, the Government and Legislature promised aid to the extent of that given to the Quebec and Gosford Railway, viz: \$150 a year, for twenty years, for each mile of road built, and equipped and kept running during that period, or a capitalization of that subsidy, on completion of the road, either in

cash or Government debentures, which amounts to about \$1,700 per mile.

The confidence entertained, by the Company, of this engagement being carried out in good faith by the Government, enables them to borrow money to carry on the work, and hope to see before long the completion of the whole line, which will open up a magnificent Agricultural Country through its entire length, and through several important Townships of Government lands. Already some 40 miles of this road are graded and ready for the rails. (Cheers.) If the citizens of Ancient Quebec, do not bestir themselves, a Sister City "South Quebec," will be competing for the trade of the country opened up by this railway.

THE RICHELIEU, DRUMMOND AND ARTHABASKA COUNTIES' RAILWAY.

Then, following up the St. Lawrence, at Sorel we find another railway, making rapid progress towards completion, assisted in like manner by a similar subsidy, to that granted the Levis and Kennebec Railway. This line of road, of which I am pleased to say, from 40 to 50 miles have been built during the past summer, runs nearly south from Sorel, and is called "The Richelieu, Drummond and Arthabaska Counties Railway.

This road, after reaching Drummondville, is intended to branch off westerly and to cross the G. T. Railway at, or near Acton, thence through part of Shefford County by Waterloo and Knowlton, and connecting at, or near, the latter place with the South Eastern Counties Junction Railway, built last summer. I hope also to see another branch in continuation of this road, to Arthabaska and Richmond, to connect with the Grand Trunk. This will depend on what local assistance may be obtained from municipalities along the proposed line of road.

Already business operations have been begun along this line of road, which, without this railway, would not have been thought of. If the whole line, as proposed, is built, it will be from one hundred and forty to one hundred and fifty miles long. Possibly, should these proposed branches not be constructed at an early day, a portion of the subsidy

promised may, by consent of parties interested and by legislation, be directed and appropriated towards aiding in the construction of an important line of road, which will be before the Legislature this Session. (Hear.)

THE SHERBROOKE, EASTERN TOWNSHIPS AND KENNEBEC RAILWAY.

Then passing more into the interior from the St. Lawrence, we have the Sherbrooke, Eastern Townships and Kennebec Railway, commencing at Sherbrooke and running northeasterly, following the valley of the St. Francis river to connect with the Levis and Kennebec Railway, in the county of Beauce. This road is partly graded for a short distance, and will, I hope, soon be sufficiently advanced to entitle it to the usual subsidy from the Government, accorded to this road in common with the other lines mentioned. This road will open, for some 70 to 80 miles, a good agricultural country, abounding with good water powers, which the completion of the road will tend to utilize and develop.

THE ST. FRANCIS AND INTERNATIONAL RAILWAY.

Then again we have the St. Francis and International Railway Company, chartered by the Dominion Legislature—running from Sherbrooke, by the Grand Trunk line, for a few miles, thence running entirely through the county of Compton, to connect at the Province Line with an American Railway, and forming the most direct route from Montreal to the Maritime Provinces.

This Railway, if built as it should be, in the most direct possible line from the Grand Trunk, at, or near Sherbrooke, and connecting at the Line with an American Railway, cannot fail of attracting to it a large share of passenger and goods traffic, between Montreal and places west thereof, and the cities of St. John and Halifax, owing to the large saving in distance over the International Railway, and United States Railways. (Hear, hear.)

In connection, also, with the American railways connecting with the Grand Trunk at Sherbrooke, the route by the proposed International Railway will be the shortest be-

tween Halifax and New York. This road, if suitably located, will also open up in this Province, a valuable tract of Crown Lands, which will thus be brought within the reach of settlers; and I hope soon, to see this important link of railway, between Montreal and the Maritime Provinces, completed. This road is also entitled to a cash subsidy from the Government, or a grant of land in lieu thereof, should the company prefer the lands to money. Legislation in this sense will probably be introduced this Session by the Government. (Applause.)

Let any one, Mr. Speaker, trace on the map of our Province, the various lines of railway referred to, entitled to Provincial aid—and with this aid there is little doubt, but in a few years all will be built,—then let him say, if he can, that the Government and Legislature of Quebec, have not shown a laudable desire to advance the prosperity of the Province by encouragement to private enterprise, and to develop the resources of the Province and advance its settlement.

For my own part, Mr. Speaker, I feel proud, as a member of this Legislature, and of the government, of having done what little I could do, to promote these important objects. The taunts and scorn, heretofore heaped upon the people of this Province, as being unprogressive, and of being backward in promotion of public enterprises have, I think, in the action of the Quebec Legislature, been shown to be false and unmerited. (Hear, hear.)

Having done and promised so much already, great prudence will be required hereafter, not to embarrass the Province by promises of more cash in the way of subsidies, than our finances will permit; or of land, so as to interfere with our revenues from this source. What has been done has been in the true interests of the Province and of the Dominion, and so soon as aid can safely be granted in furtherance of these and like enterprises, I shall, at all times, be only too glad to do so to the utmost of my power.

IMMIGRATION.

In order to derive that advantage, which we ought, as a Province, from our past and future expenditure, we need

to exert ourselves to attract Immigrants to settle in the Province. We need a large influx of population, for we, in common with the Eastern States of the American Union, have lost the services and industry of many valuable citizens, by Emigration to the Western States. Efforts should be made to induce such of our people as are in the United States to return to this country again, and efforts also should be made to encourage immigration from various parts of Europe to settle on our wild lands, or to develop our mineral deposits, or engage in manufacturing pursuits. (Hear, hear.)

What has built up the American Union to its present high position? Perhaps more than any other one thing, it has been the encouragement given by the Government of that country, and the private enterprise and zeal of its citizens, in fostering and encouraging the introduction of foreigners to their shores. The United States people well know, and appreciate, the importance of affording aid to the industrious laboring population of Europe, in coming to this country.

If we would not fall behind our sister Provinces, we must not fail in this regard: we must use every legitimate means in our power to aid and encourage the introduction of capital and men from European countries. (Hear.) I care not particularly from what part, but the more of an industrious, sober, hard-working class of people, accustomed to agricultural, dairy, or manufacturing pursuits, we can get, the better. For many years no special effort was made to introduce immigration to Lower Canada. What little was done by the late Government of Canada benefited mostly Canada West. Steamship and railway companies were interested in having immigrants go as far West as possible, so that, for several years, but few remained here. This subject is under the control of the Dominion as well as the Local Governments, and we were a little too much disposed to let things take their course, in fact, to help the Dominion Government in doing nothing.

The grant for this purpose for the two years after Confederation, was trifling in the extreme. The votes of the last two years of this House have been more respectable, and more comensurate with the importance of the object.

The principal expenditure has been made last year, and the results as favourable as could reasonably be expected. I have no doubt, but the circulation in Europe of valuable information respecting the capabilities and resources of our Province, will give good results, as soon as the information given is diffused more generally among the people. Already there have been settled in the Province, through the efforts of our agents, within two years, some 4,500 persons from various parts of Europe, and at least 100 families of our own people have come back from the Eastern States to remain here permanently. (Cheers.)

These results may not be large; but as a beginning, after the long sleep of our people, on this question, are not to be despised. The Dominion Government, I am happy to say, intend to grant aid to the several Provinces, to supplement what the respective Provinces may do themselves. It also undertakes to erect suitable buildings, at Quebec and Montreal, for the reception of the Immigrants on their arrival. These buildings are, I understand, under contract, and will, I hope, answer the purpose intended. I have every hope the new Minister of the Agricultural and Immigration Departments, at Ottawa, will gladly co-operate with the Local Governments in devising, and setting in operation, those agencies likely to produce satisfactory results. He has heretofore been active in this regard, and I have no fear but he will fully give himself to this important part of his official duties. (Applause.)

Were it possible for a Legislature to afford pecuniary aid to assist in establishing manufactures of various kinds, and aid to develop our mineral resources,—and I do not say but that some means may be devised to do this before long,—it would doubtless do much to keep our people in the country, and induce the establishment of various works of industry, which would ultimately prove valuable to the Province, and attract foreign capital to come among us. Government cannot aid every important enterprise in the country, but only such as men of capital and enterprise will embark in, and as are general in their nature and results. This has already been done as far as could have been expected, and so far with good results.

We must not, in fostering Railway schemes, overlook and forget the necessity of opening up common roads into our wild lands. Attending to this, in connection with Colonization Societies, and working harmoniously with them, will do much towards assisting poor settlers in making themselves homes. Looking then at what Quebec has done, and the efforts of the other Provinces, in the same direction, as ourselves. Looking at what progress has been made by the Dominion with its revenue, the past year, of nineteen millions of dollars, there is certainly cause for hope as to our future. True, we, in Quebec, have less income than Ontario, less cash in our Treasury from year to year, but I venture to say that, in proportion to our means, we have done more to advance the interest of the Dominion, by the expenditure made and promised to be made, in our Province, than by any other of the Provinces. (Cheers.)

Mr. Speaker, I feel better satisfied with our expenditure in promoting education amongst our people, in aid of agricultural and colonization railway purposes, than if these worthy, I may say, indispensably necessary objects had been neglected, and I could show a balance in the Treasury four-fold of what it is to-day. Time forbids, Mr. Speaker, my entering into the consideration of many other important subjects. I have, probably, said little that was new to any of the members of this House, and that little very imperfectly said. I have conveyed, probably, little information worth remembering. I have only desired to present in a concise form the state of our finances, accompanied with such remarks as seemed to me appropriate to the occasion, and I have to thank Hon. Members for their kind attention to what I have said.

We are, by the force of circumstances, Mr. Speaker, in this Dominion fast drifting into the great responsibilities consequent upon our assuming a position as a member of the family of nations. One hundred years ago, England was striving by force of arms to compel the American Colonies to remain subject to the British Crown. To-day England, through the mistaken policy, as I view it, of the statesmen at the head of her affairs, has gone to the other extreme, and so far from endeavoring to coerce us into submission to Imperial authority, is taking steps to make us

feel more and more the necessity of exercising self-government, and more and more to look to our own protection. (Hear.)

Had the policy of the British Government of to-day been to cast adrift, an extent of territory containing a population equal to that of the original 13 States of the American Union, at the time of the Revolutionary War, nearly a century ago, I must say the course pursued would have resembled, in some degree, what has been the policy adopted, and followed for some time past. Her language may be construed thus: In times of peace, you must look to your own internal government, and hereafter be prepared to do your share for self-protection, against whoever may assail you. Should any other nation attempt to interfere with your liberties or territory, England then will intervene for your assistance and protection. In the mean time you must gradually prepare yourselves for acting, more as an ally of England, than wholly dependant on her.

For upwards of a hundred years past, there was to be found, by day and night—in summer and winter—in our streets and in various parts of the Citadel of the city, the British sentinel keeping guard over us, pacing up and down in the discharge of his duty—to day he is removed to give place to the sentinel, provided from amongst our own people, by the Dominion Government. The gun which daily boomed from our citadel, giving notice to our people of the passage of time, and that Old England was at hand, ready to fight in our behalf, is no longer charged and lighted by the British soldiers, and the associations which have gathered around us by the citadel signal from time to time, are for the moment rudely broken up and scattered to the winds. The troops in our city, heretofore not only ready to act in our defence, but to assist from time to time, on all occasions of joy and festivity, when their presence could amuse or instruct our citizens—and especially ready to assist when life and property were at stake in consequence of the numerous conflagrations by fire which from time to time have visited this city—under the command of superior authority, have bidden us farewell, leaving behind only kind recollections of the intercourse had between the military and our people, and the colours of some of the regi-

ments in one of our cathedrals, for safe keeping and as mementos of the British soldier stationed in our country.

But are we, therefore, to be downhearted and discouraged as to our future position and prospects? Are we to fancy that England, because of this action, the short sighted policy of her statesmen in withdrawing her troops, cares nothing about us and is regardless as to our future? By no means. I have such full faith in the British people that, should occasion arise for our needing assistance against any foreign foe, the entire nation would, as one man, leap to our assistance and pour out, as freely as water, their treasure and blood in our defence. (Cheers.) We see no likelihood of our ever needing such assistance, but if we should, I feel confident it would cheerfully be rendered by England to-day, or years hence, as ever before.

A new era in the history of nations has dawned upon the world, by the reference of matters in dispute between two of the greatest nations of the earth, to a joint commission for settlement, by mutual concessions and compromise, rather than as heretofore by an appeal to arms for redress of real or fancied grievances. I do not, therefore, fear the least interference with our affairs by our American cousins south of the line forty-five. (Hear)

I think, upon a fair comparison of the state of things in Canada, and the most enlightened nations in the world, we will find that, as respects wise and prudent legislation; the administration of justice; the integrity of our Judges, Legislators, and public men generally; the efforts made to advance the country in education of all kinds; the liberty and purity of the press, in its efforts to defuse information throughout the Dominion and the world; the freedom of all religious denominations, to worship God according to the dictates of conscience; the exercise of the election franchise; and in every department of life—public, private, and social—we, in this Dominion, stand second to none. (Loud Cheers)

We are still a young people, and improvement, in many respects, will doubtless follow as time advances, and our circumstances and those around us change. If we learn from history—our own and that of others—what to avoid,

and what to promote; what to shun, and what to foster and encourage; all the better for our country and those who come after us. In the meantime we have each our duty to perform, whether as private individuals, or as holding public positions, and entrusted with great responsibilities, by our fellow citizens. Let those duties be faithfully performed in our various stations and relations of life, and, with the aid of Divine Providence, we have nothing to fear as to our future position and prospects. (Prolonged cheering.)

The House went into Committee of the Whole.—Mr. Bellerose in the chair.

